ELECTRIC PIG BROODERS

Easily Made From Scrap Lumber

"An Extra Pig in Each Litter"

Herman Schmidt, member of the O'Brien County, Ia., Rural Electric Cooperative:

"I brooded 130 pigs during the middle of March. I had the lamps on continuously for about the first two weeks. After being placed under the lamps the pigs stayed there continually and only came out to suck. Even now when they are three weeks old and the lamps are not on they spend much of their time under the hover. Usually, I expect to lose at least one pig each litter because the sow lies on them. This year not one was actually lain on by the sow."

Steve Dearing, member of the Missouri Rural Electric Cooperative Association:

"Before using homemade brooders my loss would run as high as 25 per cent of each litter, as the result of exposure, crushing and injury. Last spring I had 32 homemade brooders in operation. Of the 375 young pigs I raised in these brooders, very few were lost or crippled."

What Members Schmidt and Dearing have done, you can do. When you use electric pig brooders you help your nation and increase your own cash income.

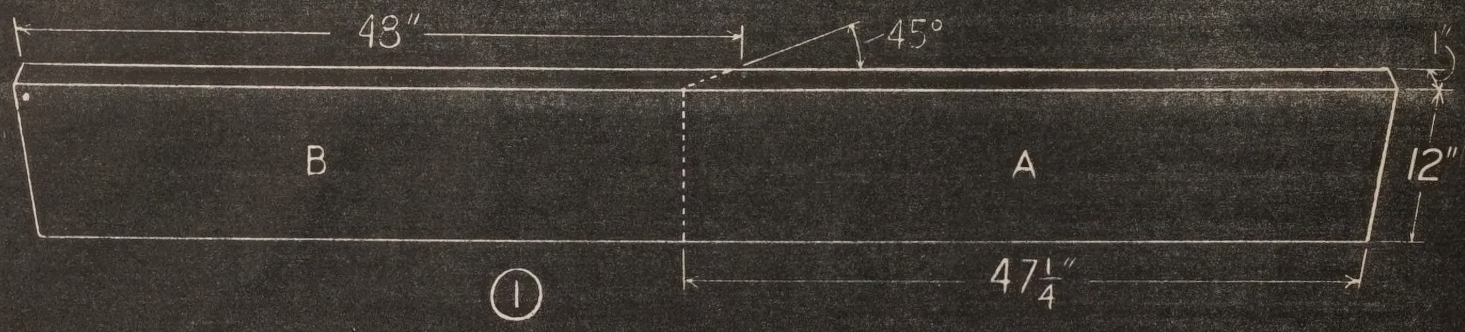
Save Feed by Saving Pigs!

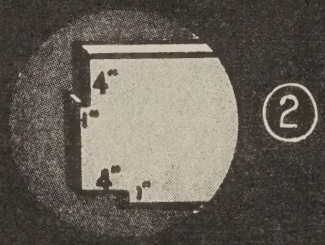
YOUR BROODER . . . built at home, will save you at least one extra pig in each litter.

SAVING *extra* pigs from each litter stretches your—and the nation's—precious stock of feed. And it increases the supply of pork so vitally needed by our armies, our people at home and our allies.

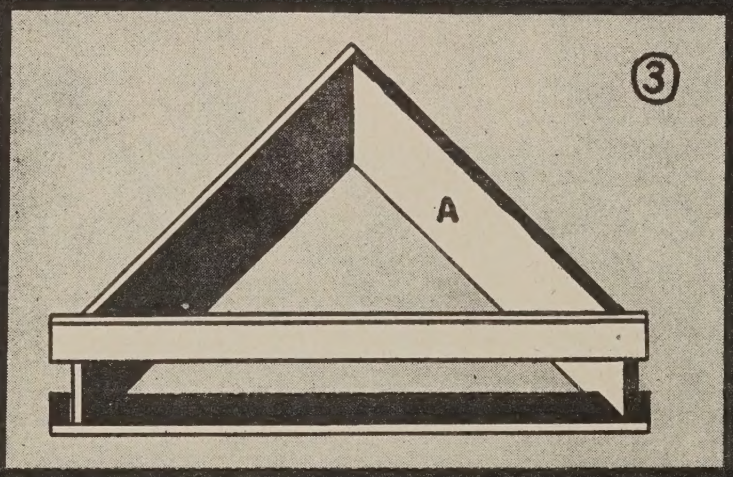
You can do it with an electric pig brooder that you can make yourself in your spare time.

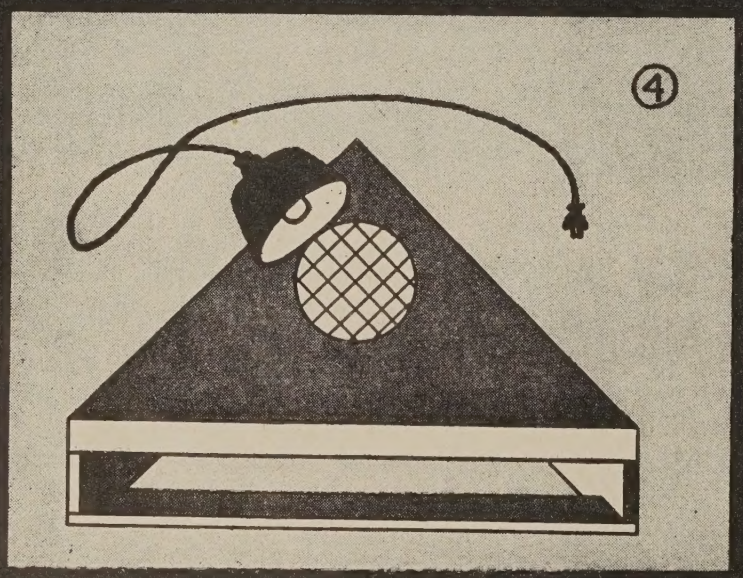
A sow carried over for spring farrowing must be fed during the winter months. The feed she uses may be wasted if her litter is not saved. Don't waste feed—prepare *now* to prevent zero weather farrowing losses. Your pig brooder, built at home from scrap lumber and a lamp, set up in a corner of your hog pen, keeps pigs warm and dry, and safe from being rolled on by the sow. College tests prove the value of the pig brooder in cutting losses in each litter.

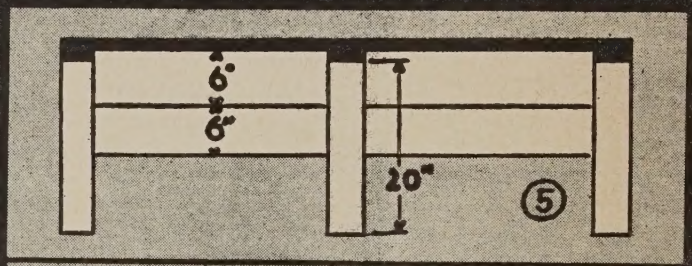


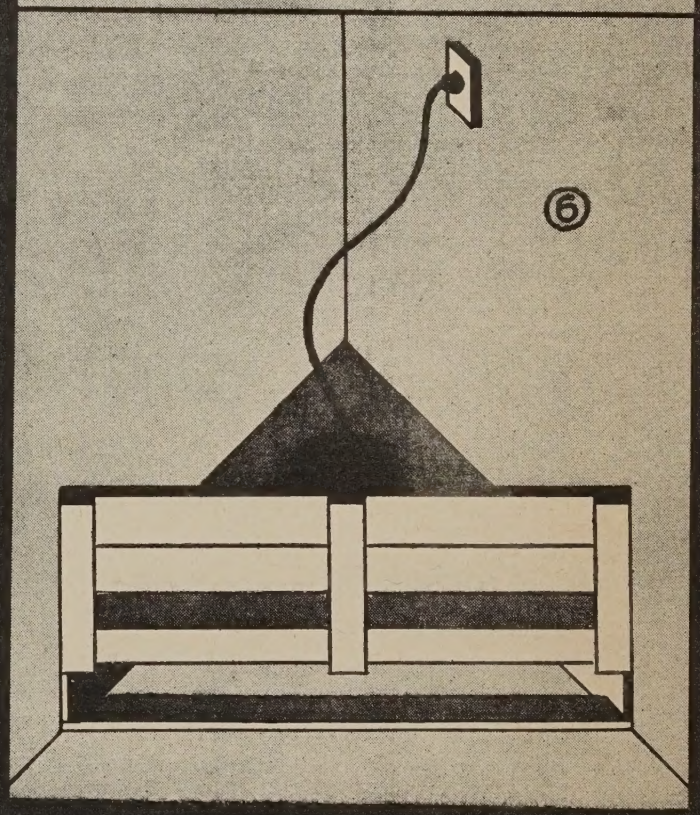


Make It Yourself In Your Spare Time









Materials for Your Brooder

Lumber	Cut To	Use
One piece 1″ x 12″ x 8 feet	{ One piece 1″ x 12″ x 4 feet { One piece 1″ x 12″ x 47¼ in.	Sides
One piece 1″ x 4″ x 12 feet	Two pieces 1″ x 4″ x 67¾″	Braces
One piece 1″ x 6″ x 12 feet	Two pieces 1″ x 6″ x 6 feet	Guard rail
One piece 1″ x 4″ x 6 feet	Three pieces 1″ x 4″ x 20″	Guard rail braces
One triangular piece ½″ plyboard, wallboard or other rigid material as available	48″ x 48″ x 67¾″	Roof

Other materials

One strip hardware cloth, ½″ mesh, 18″ x 18″ or sufficient pieces of wire to weave mesh
½ pound 8d common nails
½ pound 6d common nails
Wire staples
14″ RLM enameled reflector, cake pan, lard pail or other available metal painted white for reflecting
100-watt or 150-watt lamp as required
Weatherproof socket
10 feet rubber covered extension cord

Tools: Light clawhammer, hand saw, tin cutters, steel square, keyhole saw.

Cut Your Lumber

Cut the 1″ x 12″ x 8 feet board diagonally at 45-degree angle, in such a way as to make two boards A and B (see Drawing 1). The longer edge of A must be 47¼″ and the longer edge of B must be 48″. The opposite end of each board must be square. Notch beveled end of each piece as shown in Drawing 2.

Cut the 1″ x 4″ x 12 feet board in half for two braces. Fit the braces into the notches cut in the sides of A and B. Corners are then cut off flush with the sides to give a finished job.

Cut guard rail into two pieces, each 1″ x 6″ x 6 feet.

Cut three uprights to brace guard rail from 1″ x 4″ x 6 feet piece of lumber.

From the corner opposite the long side of the triangular plyboard, or other rigid board, draw a line to the middle of the long side. The midpoint of this line is 17″ from the long edge, and 17″ from the corner opposite the long edge. Using the midpoint as center, mark out a circle 14″ in diameter or with 7″ radius. Cut out this 14″ circle, using a keyhole saw or other cutting device.

Then Assemble Your Brooder

Set up sides A and B. The square end of the 1″ x 12″ x 47¼″ board A must be butted at right angles against the side of the board B, at its square end. The beveled ends must be flush. Nail the sides together with 8d common nails. (See Drawing 3.)

Fit and nail braces into the notches cut in beveled end of pieces A and B. Saw off protruding corners flush with the sides.

Fit the roof into place as indicated. Nail to sides and top front brace with 6d common nails.

Staple the hardware cloth or criss-crossed wire to the under side of the roof, covering the 14″ hole.

Insert lamp assembly and reflector in roof hole so that lamp cannot move. (See Drawing 4.)

Assemble guard rail, as shown in Drawing 5, from the three 1″ x 4″ x 20″ pieces and the 1″ x 6″ x 6 feet pieces.

Nail guard rail securely to top of brooder. (See Drawing 6.)

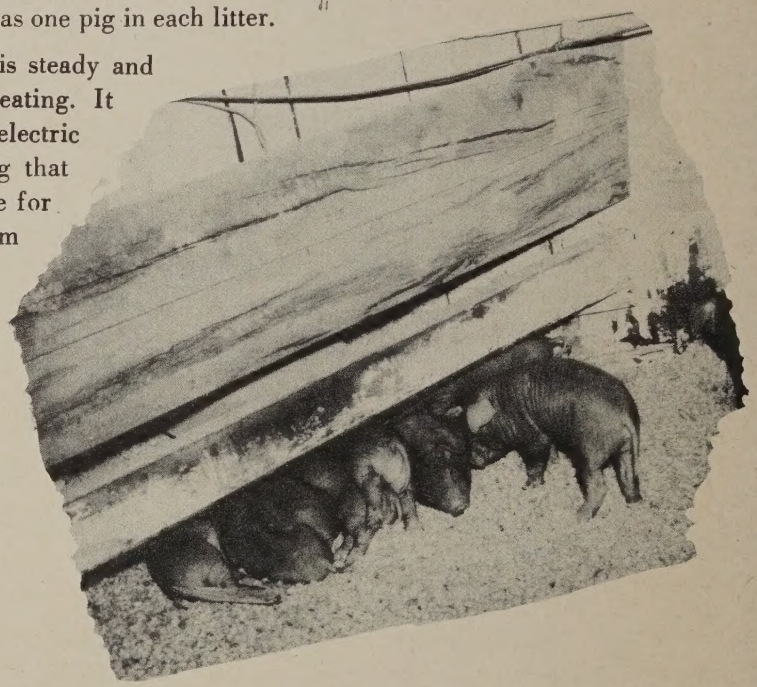
Your Homemade Brooder . . .

★ **COSTS LITTLE TO BUILD.** You need only some lumber, an electric lamp, something to reflect its heat, and a few odds and ends.

★ **CHEAP TO OPERATE.** Heat requirements vary according to seasonal temperature, but in general the 150-watt lamp is sufficient. Normal energy consumption per litter with this lamp is about 36 kilowatt hours, and should never exceed 50.

★ **PROTECTS LITTLE PIGS.** Electric heat prevents chilling when the weather is cold; sharply reduces the chances of crushing by the sow. Records show that three-fourths of all pig losses, including both death and crippling, occur within two days after farrowing. Electric brooding cuts these losses at least in half. It saves you as much as one pig in each litter.

★ **NO FIRE HAZARD.** Electric heat is steady and reliable. There is no danger of overheating. It will pay you to build and install an electric pig brooder in any wired outbuilding that is weatherproof and otherwise suitable for brooding. Few pieces of homemade farm equipment will show such savings at such slight construction and operating expense as a pig brooder.



You will find it helpful . . .

- To place the sow in the pen a day or so *before* farrowing and to turn the lamp on in the brooder several hours before the pigs arrive.
- To block the brooder entrance for several hours *after* the pigs arrive, to make sure that they keep warm and dry.
- To keep the heat on continually for 10 days, not including the time before the arrival of the pigs. If the weather is cold, this may be extended to two weeks, or as long as is thought necessary.
- To place the pigs in the brooder by hand until they learn to go voluntarily. In some cases it will be sufficient to place the pigs under the brooder only once or twice; in other cases a day or two of training will be necessary. You will be surprised at the way the little pigs run for the electric light instead of the sow, and you will be pleased at the number of pigs you save from cold and crushing.
- To bolt the brooder securely in place each time it is moved from one farrowing pen to another.

The Nation needs *every* pig!

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION • REA • U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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